

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 IO-13 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 /100 W
-----055350 080718Z /15

R 060920Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8786
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABADIGEYOO
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, BG
SUBJ: ZIA MENTIONS FORMATION OF POLITICAL FRONT AND
ORDERS ELECTION COMMISSION TO ACTION

REF: DACCA 192;2

1. IN BRIEF AD HOC REMARKS TO THE PRESS PRIOR TO HIS
DEPARTURE FOR TOKYO APRIL 5, PRESIDENT ZIA SAID THAT
HE HAD INSTRUCTED THE ELECTION COMMISSION TO PREPARE
FOR ELECTIONS. HE ADDED THAT "WE ARE OPENING THE
DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES" AND THAT HE HAD HAD VALUABLE
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE POLITICIANS ABOUT THE FORMATION OF
A POLITICAL FRONT. DODGING MOST OF THE REPORTERS'
QUESTIONS, ZIA SAID HE WOULD GIVE THE DETAILS AFTER HIS
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RETURN FROM TOKYO. ZIA DID INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT HE
WOULD PROBABLY HAVE NO TROUBLE ACCEPTING THE THREE DEMANDS
PLACED ON HIM BY MOST BANGLADESH POPITICANS; ANNULMENT
OF THE FOURTH AMENDMENT, OPEN POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND
FIRM DATE OF ELECTIONS.

2. COMMENT: IT IS WIDELY KNOWN THAT ZIA HAS MET

EXTENSIVELY WITH ATATUR RAHMAN KHAN AND MASHIUR RAHMAN THE
PAST SEVERAL EVENINGS, SO IT IS LITTLE SURPRISE THAT HE
HAS MENTIONED THE POSSIBLE FORMATION OF A FRONT. IT IS
UNLIKE HIM, HOWEVER, TO FIRE UNDUE SPECULATION WHILE HE
IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY, AND HIS DOING SO NOW SUGGESTS THAT HE
HAS THE DETAILS ESSENTIALLY COMPLETED. HIS REFERENCE TO
FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS IS A BIT AMBIGUOUS, AS MOST
PEOPLE EXPECT THERE TO BE TWO ELECTIONS, ONE PRESIDENTIAL AND
ONE PARLIAMENTARY.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES, COMMITTEES, ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DACCA02102
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780159-0586, D780150-0394
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780487/aaaacvpf.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f1995cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DACCA 192, 78 DACCA 1920
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3058497
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ZIA MENTIONS FORMATION OF POLITICAL FRONT AND ORDERS ELECTION COMMISSION TO ACTION
TAGS: PINT, BG, (RAHMAN, ZIAUR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f1995cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014